

St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
Southwest corner of State and  
Court Streets  
Windsor  
Windsor County  
Vermont

HABS No. VT-61

HABS  
VT.  
14 WIND,  
4-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction  
143 South Third Street  
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

HABS  
VT.  
14-WIND  
4-

## ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Location: Southwest corner of State and Court Streets,  
Windsor, Windsor County, Vermont.

Present Owner  
and Occupant: St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Windsor, Vermont.

Present Use: Church

Brief Statement  
of Significance: An early church in Windsor and an early work by  
the Boston architect, Alexander Parris. The  
building survives essentially unaltered and is  
in good condition.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: The structure was built and has been owned continuously by St. Paul's Episcopal Church.
2. Date of erection: The building was consecrated in 1822. There is an illustrated letter from the architect in answer to questions of the builder dated September 29, 1820, the context of which indicates that the building was under construction at that time.
3. Architect: Alexander Parris
4. Original plans: Fifteen sheets including the letter noted above have been carefully bound and are preserved in the Windsor Bank, George Parks, Treasurer of the church and employee of the bank, custodian of the drawings. The drawings include:
  - a. Preliminary floor plan study
  - b. Ground floor plan
  - c. East front elevation
  - d. North side elevation
  - e. Longitudinal and transverse sections with a letter to the builder dated September 29, 1820 (see Part I. C. for transcript of the letter).

- f. Transverse sections
- g. Section showing the column with its entablature
- h. Full size section of exterior cornice
- i. Section through the entablature showing two alternate taenia mouldings
- j. Full size profile of column base
- k. Detail of gilt sheet iron and lead weather vane
- l. Window details
- m. Door details
- n. Details of pew rail
- o. Details of interior panelling

A complete photographic copy is included in this photo-data book.

- 5. Notes on alterations and additions: The only apparent alterations are the chancel window and the front, right side window which are different from the others and probably replaced original windows similar to the other windows in the building.

6. References

- a. Hamilton Child, Gazetteer and Business Directory of Windsor County, Vermont (Syracuse, New York: Hamilton Child, 1884).
- b. Henry Steele Wardner, The Birthplace of Vermont (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1927).

- B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure: St. Paul's Episcopal Church was organized in 1816 with twenty-five members. Rev. George Leonard was the first rector. The building was originally valued at \$6,000.00

- C. Supplemental Material: The following is a complete transcript of the letter noted above in Part I. A. 4. e.

"Your letter has been recd., dated 25 inst. - In order to answer your inquiries, it has been necessary to draw this sketch - The partition may be continued up to the truss, with bricks, and a semielliptical arch turned, a c a, as is shewn in Section No. 1 - There will be no necessity of projecting the bricks for the cornice - The better way will be to nail brackets to the brickwork, and make the cornice of stucco - The whole Entablature in the Chancel will continue around horizontally, as is shown at a b a, in the section - In section No. 2 - the curve a b a, shews a section of the dome of the Chancel, taken lengthwise through the center of the building - Shall write soon giving a better explanation -

Sept 29th 1820

A. Parris  
Arch<sup>t</sup> - Boston"

Prepared by Osmund R. Overby and  
Henry C. Edwards  
Architects, National  
Park Service  
September 1959

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

### A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: An early work of Alexander Parris, in original condition, with original drawings.
2. Condition of fabric: The building is sound and well maintained.

### B. Technical Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: 48' x 70' one story with balcony plus cellar
2. Foundations: Medium to small, rough cut field stone

3. Wall construction: Brick structure, Flemish bond all sides, wood tower and wood columns.
4. Porches, stoops: Ionic, distyle portico in antis. Wood columns, granite portico floor, five wood steps.
5. Chimneys: Small brick chimney in rear part of structure.
6. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: Two leaf, four panel entrance door. Two single leaf, eight panel doors on each side. Simple moulded doorways.
  - b. Windows: Double hung windows with 20 light lower sash and 20 light plus semicircular 15 light upper sash. 14 light segmental fan in each gable end.
7. Roof:
  - a. Shape, covering: Gable roof, wood shingles.
  - b. Cornice, eaves: Boxed, moulded, wood cornice.
  - c. Tower: Two story wooden tower. First story, rectangular plan with flush, horizontal siding and moulded cornice. Second story, rectangular plan with paneled square columns set diagonally, louvered spaces between the columns, moulded cornice. Tower roofed with hemispherical dome and surmounted by weather vane.

C. Technical Description of Interiors:

1. Floor plans: Main floor nave with shallow narthex and vestries, stairhall or storage room in each of the four corners. Small balcony over narthex projects slightly over nave.
2. Stairways: Narrow balcony stairway.
3. Flooring: Carpeted.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster, paint.
5. Doorways and doors: Paneled doors. Doorways with pilaster trim with square corner blocks.

6. Trim: Moulded wood trim. Paneled wainscoting, paneled pew doors.
7. Hardware: Brass and wrought-iron hardware.
8. Lighting: Electric.
9. Heating: Central.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: Building faces east at the top of a small hill near the center part of town.
2. Walks: Short flagstone entrance walk.
3. Landscaping: Informal with lawn, trees, shrubs.

Prepared by Osmund R. Overby and  
Henry C. Edwards  
Architects  
National Park Service  
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ADDENDUM TO:  
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PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240-0001